

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Montana State Office

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Billings, Montana 59107-6800

<http://www.mt.blm.gov/>

In Reply To:

1610(923)P

August 2, 2004

EMAIL TRANSMISSION - 08/03/04
Instruction Memorandum No. MT-2004-084
Expires: 9/30/05

To: Field Managers

From: State Director

Subject: Request for Point of Contact for Posting NEPA Status Reports to
the Internet and Request for Comments on NEPA Status Reports and
APD Log Format **DD: August 27, 2004**

Currently, the Montana State Office (MSO), Western Zone, Miles City Field Office (MCFO), and North Dakota Field Office (NDFO) are posting Planning/NEPA Status Reports to the internet. The MCFO and NDFO pages each link to a corresponding log of pending Application for Permits to Drill (APD). The Great Falls Field Station is posting an APD log to the internet; however, it does not yet link to any NEPA Status Reports.

Our goal is to have all field offices, using a consistent format, post a NEPA log to the internet, and for each NEPA log to be linked to a corresponding list of pending APDs. To attain that goal, we are asking each office to assign a point of contact who will be responsible for posting the office's NEPA log to the internet. If a zone wishes to have a combined NEPA log (e.g. Butte, Dillon, and Missoula are currently combined), that is fine and will be left to the discretion of the zone managers.

Please send the NEPA log contact names to the Division of Resources, attention Jim Beaver, by August 27, 2004. Instructions on how to apply for a user login and how to post logs to the internet will be provided by Lisa Romero.

Attached is the proposed format for the NEPA log. Please review and let us know if you have any suggestions or questions about the format. Note that we propose to use the introductory paragraph currently found on the MCFO and NDFO pages plus the text from the Western Zone page. In combination, these provide an excellent explanation of the NEPA log. Also attached is an example of the APD log. Notice there is a column for the NEPA number. When the pages are linked, the reader will be able to quickly associate APDs to the correct environmental analysis effort, and vice versa. If you have any suggestions, concerns, and/or questions about the process or the log format, please let us know.

Contacts: This effort is being coordinated between the Biological Resources and Planning and Fluid Minerals Branches in the Division of Resources and the Information Resources Management (IRM) Branch in the Division of Support Services. The contacts are Jim Beaver at (406) 896-5023 for the NEPA log, Pascual "Pas" Laborda at (406) 596-5102 for the APD log, and Lisa Romero at (406) 896-5270 for IRM.

Signed by: Martin C. Ott

Authenticated by: Merry Prestridge (MT923)

2 Attachments

1-NEPA Log (3 pp)

2-SAMPLE TABLE of Notice of Staking and Applications for Permit to Drill Filed on Federal Leases (1 p)

Distribution w/attms.

SOMT-1

Asst. FM Havre-1

Asst. FM Glasgow-1

_____ Field Office(s)
NEPA Log

This log identifies the initiation and approval of environmental documents that are being completed or have been completed as part of the National Environmental Policy (NEPA) for specific actions prior to making a BLM decision on that action. If the public has any concerns or wishes to provide comments on the proposed action, we invite the public to do so. Any comments received will be considered in the preparation of NEPA documents. Please feel free to contact the author of the Project Name identified on the log or you may submit written comments to the Bureau of Land Management, _____ Field Office, at this address:

[Click here to link to Pending Applications for Permit to Drill](#)

| Field Office | NEPA Number | Project Name | Project Type | Project Location | Contact | Phone | Initiation Date | Estimated Decision Date | Document Type | Decision Level |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|---------|-------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
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Project Name: Self-explanatory. Some commonly used abbreviations:

AMP- Allotment Management Plan

HMP- Habitat Management Plan

DNRC- Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

DEQ- Montana Department of Environmental Quality

WA- Wilderness Area

R&PP- Recreation and Public Purposes (Act)

RMP- Resource Management Plan (land use plan for a field office)

R/W or ROW- Right-of-way

FW&P- Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

APD – Application for Permit to Drill

SN – Sundry Notice

POD – Plan of Development

CBNG – Coal Bed Natural Gas

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act

Project Type: Refers to the resource program that's responsible for the project.

Project Location: Approximate location, usually by township and range, Principal meridian Montana. The project may include more area than given here. This entry is given to supply the approximate location only.

Contact/Phone: The name and office phone number of the BLM person most familiar with the project.

Initiation Date: Date that NEPA work begins on a proposed action.

Decision Date: This is our best estimate of when we'll have the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis completed and will be ready to make a decision on the project. Sometimes we aren't able to meet the date, but each time we send out the table, we'll show our best estimate for the decision date.

If a non-completed project isn't on this list but was on a preceding list, it means we've dropped it. We may not have had the money to pursue the required analysis or we've had to rearrange our work schedule.

Document: NEPA requires us to analyze the effects of projects we undertake. Generally, after an analysis is made, either a field manager or the state director decides what to do. In the table, the entries under the heading "Decision Type" stand for the following:

EIS - Environmental Impact Statement

EA - Environmental Assessment

CE or CX - Categorical Exclusion

RPT - A Report (not a NEPA document)

DEC – Decision

DNA – Determination of NEPA Adequacy

PA - Preliminary Assessment

EEC - Engineer's Evaluation and Cost Analysis

In an Environmental Impact Statement, we must assume that a proposed activity either does or might have significant effects on the human environment. A "Record of Decision" announces a decision.

Environmental Assessments are analyses we do to determine if a proposed project has a significant effect on the human environment. If it does, an EIS is required. If not, we write a "Decision Record" to announce a decision based on the EA, along with a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI).

Categorical Exclusions cover activities in categories established in regulations or policies that we've found in past analyses don't have significant effects on the human environment. For certain categories of activities we're also required to announce our decisions in "Decision Memos."

Decision Level: Where the table says "FO," we mean the field office level. The appropriate Field Manager makes the decision. The reviewing official in this case would be the state director. When the table says "SO," the State Director is the deciding official and the decision is reviewed in Washington by the BLM Director. For some decisions, the Washington Office (WO) is the deciding office.

SAMPLE TABLE

Notice of Staking (NOS) and Applications for Permit to Drill (APD)

Filed on Federal Leases

This information will be updated when a new application is received by the Field Office.

Applications are moved to the section at the bottom of the report when a final determination has been made.

This information is also posted in the North Dakota Field Office for 30 days from receipt according to the regulations at 43 CFR 3162.3-1(g).

This posting is for public information and to invite public comment on proposed APDs.

Any comments received will be considered in the preparation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents.

Please direct any comments and questions regarding these APDs to the North Dakota Field Office at (701) 227-7700

or 2933 Third Avenue West, Dickinson, North Dakota 58601.

Please direct any questions related to surface issues on USFS managed lands to the United States Forest Service

at (701) 225-5151 (Medora Ranger District) or (701) 842-2393 (McKenzie Ranger District).

([click here to see the North Dakota Field Office NEPA Log](#))

North Dakota Field Office

(also includes APDs within the boundaries of the South Dakota Field Office)

Pending Applications

| <i>Posted Date</i> | <i>Application Type</i> | <i>Operator</i> | <i>Lease #</i> | <i>Surface Ownership/Mgmt</i> | <i>Well Name</i> | <i>Well #</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Legal Location</i> | <i>County</i> | <i>State</i> | <i>NEPA #</i> | <i>Field Office</i> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 7/13/2004 | APD | BURLINGTON RESOURCES O&G CO LP | NDM83896 | PRIVATE | CHSU | 11B-8SH 05 | OIL | NWNW 8, T. 130N., R. 105W. | BOWMAN | ND | 75-04 | North Dakota Field Office |
| 6/17/2004 | NOS | ZINKE & TRUMBO INC | NDM83513 | PRIVATE | Z&T JACKSON | 1-29H | OIL | NWNW 29, T. 150N., R. 102W. | MCKENZIE | ND | 70-04 | North Dakota Field Office |
| 6/17/2004 | NOS | ZINKE & TRUMBO INC | NDM83512 | PRIVATE | Z&T Mays | 1-20H | OIL | NWNW 28, T. 150N., R. 102W. | MCKENZIE | ND | 69-04 | North Dakota Field Office |
| 6/16/2004 | APD | BURLINGTON RESOURCES O&G CO LP | NDM38332 | PRIVATE | CHSU | 11C-4NH 05 | OIL | NWNW 4, T. 130N., R. 105W. | BOWMAN | ND | 66-04 | North Dakota Field Office |
| 6/8/2004 | APD | BURLINGTON RESOURCES O&G CO LP | NDM38332 | PRIVATE | CHSU | 23A-5NH 05 | OIL | NESW 5, T. 130N., R. 105W. | BOWMAN | ND | 61-04 | North Dakota Field Office |
| 6/4/2004 | APD | BURLINGTON RESOURCES O&G CO LP | NDM38332 | PRIVATE | CHSU | 41B-32NH 15 | OIL | NENE 32, T. 131N., R. 105W. | BOWMAN | ND | 59-04 | North Dakota Field Office |